

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Buddy Bynum (601) 576-2026
Laura Hipp (601) 576-2020

DATE: December 17, 2008

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR
ON ANNOUNCEMENT BY COOPER TIRES

"At a time when the economy is punctuated by bad news I am very pleased with the good news that Cooper Tires had made the decision to keep its Tupelo plant open. Part of our economic development strategy is to work aggressively with existing businesses to retain jobs and help create new jobs. This is a case where Mississippi's team was able to provide a competitive solution that will work to the benefit of the entire state, the company and certainly its dedicated employees in northeast Mississippi."

#